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of ivy, which gave it a truly romantic appearance; about twenty years past a wretch wantonly cut the roots, the ivy died, and tearing it off for fuel many of the stones were loosened; these were beat out by mischievous boys, still loosening others till the breach almost met round; yet a few straggling stones seemed struggling to support the mighty mass, until the latter end of October, 1828, a thoughtless youth beat out these supports; a short time after, this venerable monument of antiquity, that for generations arrested the eye of the traveller, became, what it now appears, a heap of ruins.

JOHN ROGGAN.

Ladies' Bridge, near Moira.

FOSSIL DEER.

SIR.—In the seventh number of our Journal a short account of the Fossil Deer, in the Dublin Society, is given. A more enlarged account of it having fallen into my hands, I thought many of our readers would be pleased with it, particularly as we feel a degree of national pride that our native institutions, for the encouragement of the arts and sciences, should have been the first public body in Europe to obtain a perfect skeleton of one of the most remarkable animals that ever existed.

"A subject of infinite importance to the science of comparative anatomy has been recently made in the discovery of a complete skeleton of this stupendous animal, by the Rev. Mr. Wray Maunsell, Archdeacon of Limerick. The valley in which the remains were found contains about twenty plantation acres, and the soil consists of a stratum of peat, about a foot thick; immediately under this a stratum of shell marl, varying from one and a half to two and a half feet in thickness. In this many of the shells retain their original colour and figure, and are not marine. Under the marl there is a bed of light blue clay; through this one of the workmen, employed in digging out the remains, drove an iron rod, in several places twelve feet deep, without meeting any opposition. Other bones were found with marl, eight in all; in one place two heads were found, with the antlers entwined in each other, and immediately under them a large bone; in another a large head was discovered, and, although a most diligent search was made, no part of the skeleton found within some hundred yards; in another the jaw bones were found, and not the head.

"The archdeacon, in a letter on this subject he lately addressed to the Right Hon. C. Knox, Vice-President of the Royal Dublin Society, in whose museum the skeleton is placed, says—'A question naturally arises how it happens that the fossil remains of no other animals were found. When the same fate (the deluge) overwhelmed every living creature, could deer have been the only living beings at that period? Was Ireland part of a continent when this catastrophe occurred? and were these unfortunates the first emigrants to our isle, from that great centre from whence the globe was supplied with occupants? and did they perish before other animals, less influenced by enterprize, and less endowed with physical strength, could have followed their example.'"

Yours, &c. W. T. W.

HUNTING IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

The Highlands of Scotland are famous for their abundance of Game of all kinds—hares, partridges, snipes, moor fowl, &c. Foxes are also numerous, and commit great devastation among the immense flocks of sheep, with which that part of Scotland is covered. The Highlanders are still famous for their great dexterity in hunting. The means they employ to obtain a proper opportunity to shoot the deer is somewhat remarkable; requiring not only great patience and perseverance, but also a very great portion of courage and sagacity. This particular species of sports is termed by them *stalking*, and the manner they execute it is thus:—the deer being an animal of the most jealous, quick and watchful kind, it is extremely difficult to come within shot of him unseen; and therefore he never appears until he is immediately before the

reader must not imagine that the deer spoken of are the same as those termed in England "the fallow deer;" the deer I speak of are not confined to any particular spot by water, or the works of art, but roam at large on the mountains as every other kind of wild game. Sometimes there are large herds of them seen together; and it has often been remarked that there are generally a few on the watch to give the alarm to the rest, if they perceive any object capable of injuring them. Now the great art rests in approaching the deer without being discovered. To effect this, the Highland sportsman, when he is unluckily seen, remains immovable in the very same position as when first spied by the animal; not stirring in the smallest degree any part of his body. Perhaps he must be obliged to rest in this situation for a considerable space of time, and always until the deer, being deceived, draws his eyes from him; because not perceiving any motion of the hunter, he considers him to be some common inanimate body, from which he needs not apprehend any danger. Sometimes the sportsman is perceived by the deer, when crossing a stream, perhaps up to the waist in water; and if he wants to gain his point, he must remain there till the animal does not distinguish the deception. In this manner he is obliged to conduct himself with the utmost precaution and circumspection, till he arrives within shot of his object, when he seldom fails doing execution—the Highlanders being naturally excellent marksmen. The most frequent places to find the deer are in the vallies and narrow passes of the mountains: they hunt them sometimes with a kind of very large dog, of the greyhound species, remarkable for its strength and swiftness. I have often heard that when the former is pursued so close as to be in danger of being overtaken by the latter, he courageously turns about and fights his enemy, till he is either shot by some of the hunters, or killed by the dog alone; and that despair has been known to arm him with sufficient resolution to attack the sportsman himself. It is observable, that the deer constantly adhere to the tract of the wind, and the Highlanders know how to take advantage of this circumstance.

The chieftains hunted formerly in the following manner:—Several distinguished chiefs met at a proper spot. Their vassals and clansmen, a part of whose feudal duty it was to attend upon such parties, appeared in such numbers as amounted to a small army. These active assistants spread through the country far and near, forming a circle, technically called *tinchel*, which, gradually closing, drove the deer in herds together towards the glen where the chiefs and principal sportsmen lay in wait for them. In the meanwhile these distinguished personages rested among the flowery heath, wrapped up in their plaids—a mode of passing a summer's night on such occasions by no means unpleasant. For many hours the mountain ridges and passes retained their ordinary appearance of silence and solitude, and the chiefs, with their followers, amused themselves with various pastimes, in which the joys of the shell, as Ossian has it, were not forgotten.—"Others apart sat on a hill retired," probably as deeply engaged in the discussion of politics and news, as Milton's spirits in metaphysical disquisition. At length signals of the approach of game were descried and heard.—Distant shouts resounded from valley to valley as the various parties of Highlanders, climbing rocks, struggling through copses, wading brooks, and traversing thickets, approached more near and near to each other, and compelled the astonished deer, with the other wild animals that fled before them, into a narrow circle. Every now and then the report of muskets was heard repeated by a thousand echoes. The baying of the dogs was soon added to the chorus. At length the advanced parties of the deer began to shew themselves; and as the stragglers came bounding down the pass by two or three at a time, the chiefs shewed their skill by distinguishing the fastest deer, and their dexterity in bringing them down with their guns.

But now the main body of the deer appeared at the head of the glen, compelled into a very narrow compass, and presenting a most formidable phalanx, their antlers appearing at a distance over the ridge of the steep pass, and their numbers were very great, and their